

January 2018: A decade of kalo studies in Waimanalo,
Conservation Innovation Grants, Remarkable Graduate
Assistantships for local youth, and more.

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West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Working with Farmers and Community to Conserve Hawaii's Soil and Water Resources since 1950.



CTAHR Celebration: a Decade of Kalo at the Waimanalo Research Station

Please save the date for Saturday, March 17, 2018 when Waimanalo Research Station will host an open house to celebrate 10 years of Hawaiian kalo being on site. Times, directions and other information forthcoming.

The CTAHR ohana welcome collaboration, support and kokua from all who want to

be a part of this fun and educational event. Contact Jari Sugano for more information: suganoj@ctahr.hawaii.edu.



NRCS: Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

On December 18, 2017, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) announced that up to \$10 million is available for the national component of CIG in 2018. The deadline for applications is Feb. 26, 2018 at 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The full application package, including all necessary forms and instructions and submission information, is on [Grants.gov](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/grants).

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) are competitive grants that drive public and private sector innovation in resource conservation. Authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill, CIG uses Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or nongovernmental organizations, American Indian Tribes, or individuals. Producers involved in CIG funded projects must be EQIP eligible. Questions? Contact: nrcscig@wdc.usda.gov

Applicants may also visit the [CIG applicants page](#) for additional help in preparing applications. A webinar for potential applicants is scheduled for Jan. 11, 2018 at 4 p.m. Eastern Standard Time and can be accessed by [clicking here](#).



[2018 AGathon - Hackathon](#)

Saturday - Sunday January 13-14, 2018

DESCRIPTION

The AGathon is Hawaii's premier agriculture - tech hackathon. Its purpose is to spark innovation and advancement within the Hawaii agricultural industry through the creativity and talents in Hawaii's growing startup, technology, and developer community.

If you are an expert in agriculture, software, hardware, design, and/or business development and want help Hawaii become food sustainable, this is the event for you!

Compete for cash prizes and mentorship from seasoned agtech entrepreneurs to take your concept solution to the next level!

[Reserve Tickets today.](#)

Saturday, January 13 - Sunday January 14, 2018 – Hackathon & Demo Day
at [Impact Hub](#), [1050 Queen St.](#) in Kakaako

- **Saturday, 1/13/18**
 - 8:00am - Doors open at Impact Hub, Hackathon Starts, morning brew
 - 9:00 - 9:30am - Meet the ag experts from our startup community
 - 12:00 noon - Lunch
 - 6:00pm - Dinner
 - 10pm - Doors close
 - **Sunday, 1/14/18**
 - 6am - Doors open at Impact Hub
 - 12:00 noon - Lunch, Stop Work on projects
 - 1:00pm - Team demos, judging, and awards
 - 3:00pm - Pau
-



Graduate Assistantships for Local Youth: includes tuition waiver, annual stipend, and funds for research and professional development

Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation (HMLF) is again partnering with the University of Hawai'i to offer nine graduate assistantship positions for the Fall 2018 school year. These positions are available in the following Master's degree programs: UH Hilo Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science (3 assistantships), UH Mānoa Natural Resources and Environmental Management (3 assistantships), Botany (1 assistantship), Marine Biology (1 assistantship), and Geology & Geophysics or Oceanography (1 assistantship). In addition to a tuition waiver for each year, the two-year long assistantship also includes an annual stipend and funds for research supplies and professional development opportunities. Please [visit the HMLF website](#) for more information on how to apply and who to contact with questions regarding the assistantships.

Support for these graduate assistantships falls under the Foundation's [Environmental grantmaking program](#), specifically Environmental Leadership Pathways, where HMLF partners with Hawai'i-based organizations that engage and prepare the next generation of environmental leaders in Hawai'i.

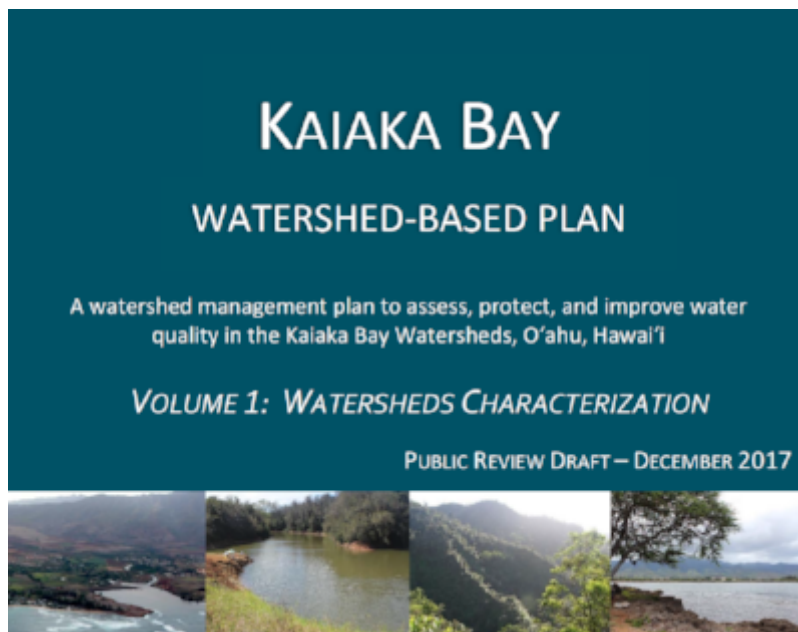


United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Program: grant funds available

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 8, 2018

The USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) requests applications for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) for fiscal year (FY) 2018 to support the delivery of education, mentoring, and technical assistance programs to help beginning farmers and ranchers in the United States (U.S.) and its territories with entering, establishing, building and managing successful farm and ranch enterprises. This RFA is being released prior to the passage of an appropriations act for 2018. Enactment of additional continuing resolutions or an appropriations act may affect the availability or level of funding for this program. The anticipated amount available for grants in FY 2018 is approximately \$17.7 million. Full RFP found [here](#) via RFP or via the USDA [website](#).



The draft Kaiaka Bay Watershed-Based Plan has been posted on the Hawaii Clean Water Branch website for public review and comment. You are invited to come to the West Oahu SWCD meeting on January 23, which will feature a brief presentation of this plan. Meeting details at the bottom of our e-news.

- [Kaiaka WBP_Vol 1 Characterization_PublicReviewDraft_Dec2017](#)
- [Kaiaka WBP_Vol 2 Implementation Plan_PublicReviewDraft_Dec2017](#)
- [Appendix A – Geomorphic Assessment of Poamoho Stream](#)

See full details [here](#)



ELEMENTAL
EXCELSIOR

HOW WE WORK

Each year, we find 12-15 companies that best fit our mission and fund each company up to \$1 million to improve systems that impact people's lives: energy, water, agriculture, and transportation. <https://elementalexcelerator.com/>

Jobs:

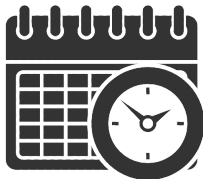
- **Portfolio Manager for Agriculture & Water:** The Portfolio Manager will work with our Portfolio Team to manage EEx portfolio companies across

the Demonstration and Go-to-Market Track. We are looking for an individual with experience working in the water and/or agriculture sectors. ([Full Description](#))

- **Education & Workforce Lead:** The key responsibility for this role will be to identify – and support the creation of – career pathways in the fields of energy, environment, and technology to stimulate growth in the clean energy and innovation sectors of Hawaii’s economy ([Full Description](#))
- **Content Specialist:** We are looking for someone to develop outstanding written content and presentations for Elemental Excelsior. ([Full Description](#))

Fellowships:

- **Portfolio Fellow:** EEx is looking for an individual to support our Portfolio Lead and Portfolio Managers. Activities may include project support, monitoring trends, and analysis. ([Full Description](#))
- **Communications Fellow:** The Communications Fellow will work closely with the communications team to support our core activities and events. Activities may include content creation, inventory management, other tasks as assigned. ([Full Description](#))



Calendar of Events

Aggie Events and Deadlines: Get involved in Oahu Agriculture

- January 9: South County Farm Bureau meeting 6:00pm HARC lower Kunia
- January 13-14: [AGathon](#)
- January 23: West Oahu SWCD meeting
- January 22-23: FSMA Food Safety Course- Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventative Controls for Human Food (Honolulu, HI) - [more info](#)
- January 29: [Hawaii Ag Leadership Program Application](#) Deadline
- February 8: [Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program](#) grant proposals due
- February 26, 2018: NRCS [Conservation Innovation Grant](#) deadline

[Hawaii Farm to School Calendar](#)



Online Workshops with NRCS:

[The Latest on the Carbon Management and Evaluation Tool \(COMET\) Suite of Ecosystem Services Quantification Tools](#)

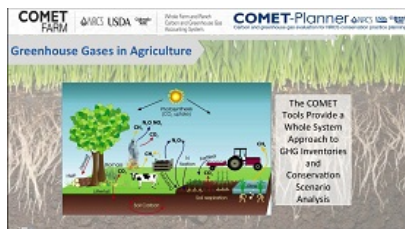
This webinar is scheduled for January 25, 2018 9am Hawaii time and 2:00 pm US/Eastern

Participate to learn the latest news about the COMET suite of tools, and as a NRCS employee how you can implement this technology into the conservation planning process.

Innovative Organic Weed Control

This webinar is scheduled for February 6, 2018. Full details not yet posted.

More information about this webinar and others found [here](#)



West Oahu SWCD January Meeting: January 23, 2018 at 12:30pm

Location of all meetings: Crop Production Services Conference Room, Kunia Village 92-1770 Kunia Road, Kunia HI 96759. Please enter through the side door.

West Oahu SWCD Directors: Larry Jefts (Chair), Peter Gibson, Alan Gottlieb, John McHugh, & Joe Para. Associate Director: Mike Glidden.

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